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Indiana
Department of Education
Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

1003(a) AdvancEd Project

2014-2015 1003(a) Tier IV

OVERVIEW

Eligible schools will receive funding to participate in school improvement planning through AdvancED. This grant will require a partnership with AdvancED in using the ASSIST program, as well as possible professional development and site reviews. The intent of the grant it to provide resources to write an effective school improvement plan and build leadership capacity.   The 1.0 version of this project took place in the Spring thru Fall of 2014 – 18 schools participated in consultation and 10 participated in the external review process. Schools will have a choice in one of the three options below.

BENEFITS

- All options will have access to AdvancED's web-based school improvement platform, ASSIST (over 32,000 schools and districts are currently using ASSIST).
- ASSIST will allow schools to have a one-stop-shop for all improvement needs.
- Opportunity to dig-deep into school data, needs, and evidence of successes.
- One plan: PL221/SIP, SAP, Title I SWP
- ASSIST goal builder is tailored to Indiana's needs and allows for custom content and drop-down menus so districts and schools can easily address planning. It provides a living, breathing document that can be easily updated throughout the year, and in years to come.
- Partnership with AdvancED for professional development in regards to writing school improvement plans, as well as focusing on individual school needs.

Option1: Adaptive System of School Improvement Support (ASSIST) - $1,200

Schools who hold a1003(a) or 1003(g) grant for the current school year may apply for Option 1 and receive additional funding on top of their current grant.
AdvancED will provide up to 16 hours of consulting services and/or focused technical assistance with the ASSIST system. The implementation and management of all tools and processes will be supported through AdvancED's web-based school improvement platform, ASSIST. With a standards-based diagnostic framework at its core, ASSIST helps to connect and compile data and information in a way that generates knowledge, pinpoints areas of need, and takes the guesswork out of improvement planning. On the screen you can see some of the pieces that are included in ASSIST.
The following components within ASSIST will be used to facilitate processes:
- Executive Summary, School Self-Assessment, District Self-Assessment, Perception Surveys (parent, student, and staff), Student Performance Diagnostic, Stakeholder Perception Diagnostic, Assurances, Improvement Planning, and the Turnaround Principles

Option 2: Consultation - $6,000 (all schools on the list are eligible)

Schools who hold a 1003(a) or 1003(g) grant for the current school year may apply for Option 2 and amend their current grant to include these services; no additional funds will be given to current grantees for option 2.

Access to the ASSIST platform as well as, AdvancED will provide up to 16 hours of consulting services and/or focused technical assistance to identify improvement priorities and develop a SIP. These services will be focused on helping schools to:

- Form a sustainable school improvement team with the "right" skills and abilities to facilitate a meaningful internal review and improvement process
- Complete the AdvancED diagnostic tools
- Identifying relevant evidence
- Ensure that the results of the internal review process are honest and insightful
- Interpret and analyze data during the internal review process

Option 3: Diagnostic Review - $28,000 *(schools on the approved list, with three years of 'F' are eligible)*

Schools who hold a 1003(a) or 1003(g) grant for the current school year may apply for Option 3 and amend their current grant to include these services; no additional funds will be given to current grantees for option 3.

Access to the ASSIST platform as well as, an Internal Review process is carried out by school and system leaders using the AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools and School Systems, diagnostic tools within ASSIST including stakeholder surveys, and other frameworks and resources provided by AdvancED that enable an evaluation of policies, practices, conditions, and culture.

The Internal Review process yields school and school system Self Assessments of the AdvancED standards and indicators, school and school systems Executive Summaries, student performance analysis, stakeholder perception survey analysis, and identification of artifacts and documents within the school/system that support the ratings for the standards and indicators.

In addition to the Internal Review Process, schools will engage in an External Review Process that consists of a three-day on-site review, (conducted by persons who have no prior affiliation with the school or school system under review), using the AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools and School Systems.

The External Review process examines the extent which the institution's policies, practices, and conditions, align to the AdvancED standards, indicators, and performance levels using multiple sources of data and information including student performance, stakeholder perception, school and school system Self Assessments, stakeholder interviews, classroom observations as well as relevant documents and artifacts.

The External Review process yields a written report summarizing the school/system alignment with the AdvancED standards and indicators. The report consists of numerical ratings for all standards and indicators, identification of sources of evidence used for determining the ratings, and identification of "Notable Achievements" and "Powerful Practices" as well as "Opportunities for Improvement" and "Improvement Priorities" which are leverage points for improvement in student performance and organizational effectiveness.

External review teams can be comprised of any of the following: Lead Evaluator (AdvancED selected), DOE staff members, Teachers, Principals or other school-level administrators, District level administrators, and/or University faculty members.

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